[Guide to the FT7 Yao File]

[The FT7 Yao file is based on 11 sources, all in English. The basic works are by J. C. Mitchell who studied village organization and political structure in the Yao area in 1946-47. Older sources by H. S. Stannus give more general views of Yao culture. Specialized studies by Sanderson, Lawson, and Hetherwick cover religion, kinship, and ceremonial life. Tew presents a summary of Yao culture, drawn from the older literature.

The file is heavily biased toward political and social structure, with lesser emphasis on material culture and other general aspects of culture.

Much of the material, particularly that by Stannus, is mixed with material on the Nyanja and other tribes of the area. The author unfortunately does not always clearly distinguish which tribe he is referring to in the text. --Analyst]

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